

1946

Testimony About Experiments in Concentration Camps

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Experiments in Concentration Camps.

Many concentration camps medical experiments were performed on the inmates. These experiments were not voluntary. Some documents suggest that sadistic and obscene motives played a large role in many of these research projects.

From German documents, interrogations and reports of witnesses, the following 16 types of experiments could be established as having taken place:

High altitude experiments, carried out by Dr. Sigmund Rascher in the concentration camp of Dachau, March - August 1942.

These experiments were begun in March 1942.

1581-PS, letter from Brandt to Sievers, re low pressure experiments on inmates of Dachau, 21 March 1942.

SEH in my file - photostat + translation in Sievers + R. Brandt

The experimental subjects were placed in a closed chamber in which air pressure could be increased or decreased. If the prisoners were placed in a vacuum, they were often kept there until their lungs ruptured. This experiment was frequently used as a method of execution. High pressure caused such extreme pain that the victims tore their heads and faces with their fingers and nails, beat the walls with their hands and screamed in an effort to relieve pressure on their eardrums.

2428-PS, Anton Pacholegg's testimony, 13 May 1945, pp. 2 - 3
L-173, Dr. Soswinski's testimony, 1945, p. 8., par. 2.

That fatalities occurred is obvious from a letter of Mrs. Rascher (13 April 1942) in which she asked for Himmler's permission to take colored photographs of "freshly autopsied human bodies" in Dachau.

Ubid 1581-PS, letter from Mrs. Rascher to Dr. Brandt, 13 April 1942.

Also Dr. Rascher, on 20 August 1942, writes about releasing prisoners who assisted him in the experiments by performing autopsies.

1607-PS, letter from Rascher to Brandt, re high altitude experiments, 20 August 1942.

Photostat in R. Brandt + Sievers + my file. also SEE #:

Experiments on intense chilling in ice-water, carried out in the concentration camp of Dachau by Dr. Sigmund Rascher, August - November 1942.

The final report of these experiments gives a detailed account about the procedure and the sufferings of the victims. The experimental subjects were immersed into water at temperatures from 36.1° to 56.6° (2.3° to $.2^{\circ}$ C). The experimental persons were forced to spend several hours (up to 48) in the ice cold water. The victims felt as if an iron ring were drawn around their chests, they were unable to breathe or to speak, muscular rigidity and cramps set in and death occurred frequently.

L-171, report of Dr. Rascher on chilling experiments, October 1942, pp. 2, 4, 5. Charts 5, 13.

2428-PS, Franz Blaha's testimony, 3 May 1945, p. 27.

L-173, Dr. Soswinski's testimony, 1945, pp. 2 - 3.

It is impossible to ascertain how many people were killed in these experiments. In the above mentioned charts 12 murders are illustrated.

Also it is impossible to estimate the number of people used in these experiments; however, the same subjects were sometimes used for several experiments.

1578-PS, Rascher's personal notebook about chilling experiments.

*SEE + Photostats in
Sievers file*

According to a testimony, 100 to 120 people were subjected to the cold water treatment, two thirds of whom died.

2425-PS, Franz Blaha's testimony, 3 May 1945, p. 11.

132584

The victims were withdrawn from the water and rewarmed by various methods. In one experimental series four girls were used for rewarming the chilled persons. These women were brought from Ravensbruck; the half-frozen bodies of the victims were placed between two women and the effect of intercourse were observed.

1583-PS, letter of Himmler to Pohl, 18 November 1945.

*Photo + translation
in my file - no 32A*

2428-PS, Anton Pacholegg's testimony, 13 May 1945, p. 5.

c. Chilling experiments on concentration camp inmates by exposure to dry cold, carried out by Dr. Rascher in Dachau in February 1943.

A letter by Dr. Rascher reports on experiments carried out on 30 inmates of Dachau. The prisoners were left outdoors naked until their body temperature fell to 80.6° (27°C). Their hands and feet were partly frozen white.

1616-PS, letter of Rascher to Himmler, 17 February 1943, re freezing experiments.

*SEA + translation in my file
SEA + photo stat in Grawitz*

Naked men were put outdoors, mostly during the cold winter night; they were forced to lie in metal carts for two to twelve hours until they fainted.

2428-PS, Anton pacholegg's testimony, 13 May 1945, p. 5

Rascher requested to perform similar experiments in Auschwitz and in Lublin, because the climate was colder there, and the camps were more spacious, so that the screaming of the frozen victims would cause less excitement. This request was granted by Himmler.

1616-PS, letter of Rascher to Himmler, 17 February 1943

ibid

1580-PS, letter of Himmler to Rascher, 26 February 1943

*SEA, translation + photo stat
all in my file*

d. Operations performed on healthy prisoners by SS doctors performed various operations in the course of which about 25% of the patients died. Patients with hernia and appendicitis were castrated. Amputations were performed without anesthesia.

2428-PS, Franz Blaha's testimony, 3 May 1945,
pp. 8 - 9

2428-PS, Anton Pachelegg's testimony, 13 May
1945, p. 6.

e. Liver punctures performed in Dachau, and by Prof. Neumann in Buchenwald, 1942 - 1943. These punctures caused much pain, terrible cramps, and led to a very high percentage of fatalities.

2428-PS, Dr. Franz Blaha's testimony, dated
3 May 1945, p. 33.

2428-PS, Herrmann Obenauer's testimony,
dated 23 April 1945, p. 1.

f. Malaria inoculation experiments conducted on inmates of the concentration camp of Dachau by Dr. Claus Karl Schilling, from February 1942 to March 1943. Healthy prisoners were injected with the blood of patients suffering from malaria. These experiments caused directly or indirectly 100 casualties among the estimated 1,000 persons who were experimented upon.

2428-PS, Dr. Franz Blaha's testimony, 3 May 1945
pp. 33, 35 - 37.

2428-PS, Dr. Claus Karl Schilling's testimony, 7
May 1945, pp. 4 - 14, 16 - 20.

g. Injections with pus from phlegmons patients carried out in concentration camp of Dachau. About 800 people were injected with pus from phlegmons patients into the muscles or into the veins. An estimated 90% of these people died, the rest became crippled and were later killed.

2428-PS, Dr. Franz Blaha's testimony,
3 May 1945, pp. 9 - 10

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n. Artificial infection of male and female inmates with bacterial cultures at the Ravensbruck concentration camp, carried out by Dr. Karl Gebhardt and Dr. Fritz Fischer. Incisions were made into the legs and bacterial cultures of gas edema bacilli were implanted. These experiments frequently led to fever, sepsis and death in many cases.

Interrogations of Dr. Fritz Fischer,
19 September 1945, pp. 10 - 13, 20
September 1945, pp. 3 - 10, 21 Sept-
ember 1945, pp. 4 - 11, 25 September
1945, pp. 6 - 12

i. Plastic surgery and bone transplantation performed on inmates of the Ravensbruck concentration camp under direction of Dr. Karl Gebhardt. In these experiments part of muscles were excised and shoulder bone removed. The victims became permanently crippled.

Interrogation of Dr. Fritz Fischer, 20 September 1945
pp. 13 - 15.

2170-PS, statement of Kurt Gerstein, 6 May 1945, p. 6. ✓

2181-PS, testimony of Sylvia Marie Girard, 28 July 1945,
pp. 16 - 17

no good

j. Dietary experiments carried out in the Mauthausen concentration camp. From 1 December 1943 to 31 July 1944, three different kinds of diets were used on the experimental subjects :

Fruit Diet (A), consisting of fruit stew,
of 150 patients, 78 died.

Yeast Diet (B); of 110 patients, 33 died.

Regular Diet (C); of 110 patients, 46 died.

2176-PS, Exhibit 4, statement of Prof. C.
Busek, 18 May 1945, par. 9.

no good

k. Injections with typhus serum in the Buchenwald concentration camp, performed by Dr. Schuler. Several hundred patients were injected with typhus serum. An estimated 80% of these died.

2222-PS, Exhibit RR, statement of Jean Julien Dieutegarde, 16 April 1945, pp. 23, 24, par. 171 and Exhibit SS, statement of Paul Bennart, 16 April 1945, p. 28., par. 196.
2223-PS, Exhibit 163, interrogation of Erwin Schuler, 16 April 1945, by CIC det. 220, Hq. XX Corps, p. 1., par. 2.

l. Castration, artificial fertilization, vivi sections, performed in Auschwitz. On boys of 18 - 21 years, who were picked out indiscriminately, castrations and semi-castrations were performed. The SS men watched whether one of the semi-castrated was able to have sexual intercourse. Men and women were sterilized by means of X-rays. Cancer was implanted on the uterus and artificial fertilizations were carried out.

2223-PS, Exhibit 69, statement of Solon Samonilidis, 22 April 1945, pp. 1 - 2; Exhibit 107, statement of Leo Eitinger, 22 - 23 April 1945, pp. 3 - 4; Exhibit 113, statement of Paul Heller, 23 April 1945, p. 1., par. 2.

m. Bone operations performed in Buchenwald by Dr. Eissele. Eissele took out bones and amputated arms and legs. Sick men who merely asked for a plaster or a pill were anesthetized, their heads, bowels etc. cut off.

2223-PS, Exhibit 116, statement of Herrman Obenauer, 23 April 1945, p. 1; Exhibit 115, statement of Waldemar Reiner, 23 April 1945, p. 1; Exhibit 114, statement of Ludwig Scheinbrum, 23 April 1945, p. 2

n. Experiments with poisoned ammunition in Buchenwald. Prisoners were shot with poisoned ammunition; from a minor shot wound they died within a few hours.

2223-PS, Exhibit 34, statement of Gustav Wegerer, 19 April 1945, p. 1., par. 5.

e. Injections leading to blindness and severe wounds, performed in Natzweiler. Injections were given into the arms. Within a few minutes blindness set in, which lasted for several days; at the site of the injections severe wounds appeared which healed only with difficulty and crippled many victims permanently.

2223-PS, Exhibit 104, statement of Dr. Kurt
Sittig, 23 April 1945, p. 2., par. 2.

p. Experiments on human skin performed by Dr. Richter in Gusen. Healthy prisoners were killed with injections and experiments were performed with their skin.

2176-PS, Exhibit 4, statement of Prof. Dr. C.
Busek, 13 May 1945, Sect. 8, par. 3.